

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS SUPERFUND SITE COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING

August 21 2014 9:30 A.M.

Location: Harris County Pollution Control Services Department.
101 S. Richey, Pasadena, Texas

Agenda

Participants: U.S. EPA Region 6, TCEQ, Texas Department of State Health Services, Harris County Agencies, Elected officials, Commissioner's Office, Galveston Bay Foundation, Port of Houston Authority; Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, TXDOT, Other State, County and local agencies.

I. Introductions

II. Update (EPA)

✚ *The recent EPA Environmental Justice Workshop held in Houston, TX, August 6th -8th was mentioned. Donn asked L. Babin, who attended, if there was anything important regarding SJWP mentioned. L. Babin indicated that there were a few instances where someone affiliated with SJWP community indicated a lack of community involvement in the process. Donn acknowledged conversations of the same with a couple of folks and indicated that it is on the agenda.*

✚ *It was announced that Administrator Ron Curry will be in Houston to speak at a conference the week of August 25th. He is familiar with SJWP and will be brought up to speed with any new information.*

III. Current Issues: Revised Site Schedule and related issues; CAP Inspection Report; Remedy Review Board status; Status of the Independent Review; Water Well update; Other.

✚ **Newly revised site schedule** ---was discussed but no real details or hard dates were given-only that the new study that will be conducted by the ACE will take place and its completion and findings will be important in the steps moving forward.


✚ **CAP Inspection Report**---Val Michael reported that the July 2014 inspection by water and manual probing showed a significant data gap. There was an area that was covered in gray b/c of low tide with no survey could be conducted (too slick and unsafe to access by land). The EPA notified the David Keith that this was not acceptable and the data was needed. Mr. Keith then indicated that the error was made in the February 2014 report but had been indeed sampled in July although the July report noted the missing data.

- *Basically as it stands from October 2013 to July 2014 there has been no change in the depth of the CAP.*
- *The error is being corrected in the paperwork*
- *A contingency plan is going to be developed for resampling when a low tide is present at first attempt.*


- *Question— is there another entity that could conduct the hydrographic or manual probing. Answer—No. The EPA still conducts the visual inspections.*
- *Val Michael will send the corrected report when he receives it.*
- *Typically these reports are not on the EPA website but Gary stated that he will add them to the website for public access.*
- ✚ **Groundwater sampling (Water well update)** – *Gary talked about the groundwater sampling that was conducted in 2012 and showed a map that visually showed a cleaner view of the sampled locations than previously provided. The map of the groundwater table and the findings of the sampling were also shown (previously provided) for reiteration.*
 - *Community concerns of groundwater contamination continue however the previous sampling showed low levels seen or no organics. Most of the wells sampled were at the 300- 500 ft. depth but there were a couple that was at shallower depths on the east side of the river.*
 - *The flow in the area – Chico flows SE and the shallow alluvial flows were towards the river.*
 - *In the Southern impoundment there were two locations that were above the MCL of 30 pg/L at the 10-20 ft. depth (shallow).*
- ✚ **Status of Independent Review**—*US ACE will be brought in as an outside third party review of the site to look at several aspects (review modeling). A draft scope of work was sent to the Corp and now EPA is waiting on the work plan.*
 - *Paul Schrodder*
 - *Earl Hayteror*

IV. Community Engagement Issues:

- Informing the public; Warning Signage Replacement.
 - ✚ *The EPA indicated that they made great effort to notify the public of the change in scheduling.*
 - ✚ *Discussion of the signage replacement was conducted. Ken Haldin suggested a reinventory of the sign arsenal.*
- Request for a Community Advisory Group
 - ✚ *Request from Texans Together and some others made to EPA to have true and active community engagement in the process. Donn has been receiving emails/ calls regarding this and the suggestion of inviting Jackie Young and Lisa Gosslett was made. The group agreed with this suggestion.*
- Response to recent community Blogs
 - ✚ *Jenna Durant –EPA Region 6 Media – External Affairs will handle these types of issues.*
 - ✚ *The discussion regarding the cartoons and other blog commentary on the SJWP was briefly discussed.*
- TDSHS Update
 - ✚ *February walk though of community – pamphlet distribution- to date approximately 10K pieces have been distributed.*
 - ✚ *Birth defect report complete but now new CDC guidelines will require an additional review for possible new inclusions.*

 *The current study, “Channelview Community Health Concerns” will contain census track data from 1995-2011 and will include cancer occurrence and birth defects.*

- GBF/TAG Comments

 *Reports are continued to receive review with findings placed on the GBF website for laypersons in the community.*

V. New Business: *none*

VI. Next CAC Meeting and Schedule: *Will be scheduled as new information becomes available.*